

MEETING MINUTES
Stow Green Advisory Committee
Thursday, November 18, 2021

Stow Town Building
1st Floor Whitney Room
380 Great Road
Stow, MA

Committee Members Attending:

Arnie Epstein – Committee Chair, Energy Manager, Sharon Brownfield – Vice Chair, Appointed by Energy Manager, Carol Lynn – Clerk, Resident At-Large Representative for the Select Board, Tom Porcher – Conservation Commission, Bob Collings – EDIC, John Colonna-Romano – Planning Board, Michael Naill – Zoning Board of Appeals, George Peterman – Resident At-Large, John Sangermano – Resident At-Large

Residents Attending:

Kate Fisher – 1 White Pond Road

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Agenda

1. Review of minutes from 11-04-2021.

- a. Move for approval – Sharon
- b. Seconded – George
- c. All – unanimous Aye

2. Discussion with Police Chief Michael Sallese about purchasing an EV/hybrid police car.

- a. Police Chief Sallese updated the committee on a proposal to purchase a new Ford Interceptor hybrid command car to replace an existing vehicle.
- b. The estimated price will be around \$57, 000. Estimated life is six years (the vehicle comes with a 5-year, 70K miles warranty).
- c. Chief Sallese will be presenting this at the May town meeting for approval.
- d. Command cars can need to run the entire time an incident is happening (they sit a lot with the engine running), which can be 4-5 hours or longer. Chief Sallese is concerned that an all-electric car could potentially run out of power during an event, which is why he is proposing the purchase of a hybrid rather than an all-electric vehicle.
- e. Arnie suggested that we might be able to apply for a Green Communities Act grant (they provide funding for hybrids and EVs). He believes we can make the next request around April, which would be before the May town meeting. However, we won't know if the grant is awarded until later summer. George will be following up on this. We might also be able to get some funding help from HLPD for a charging station.

3. HLPD

- a. Arnie, Bob, and George had a positive meeting with Brian Choquette – CM, Chris Monsini – Engineering Project Manager, and Xiaofeng (Sho-feng) Yan – Operations Manager. While they are flexible in many ways, they do have some restraints as a non-profit.
- b. Key points from the meeting (Meeting notes distributed by George):
 - i. HLPD has enough energy to double the amount of power to Stow.
 - ii. HLPD was willing to consider Stow having storage capability for the schools or municipal buildings if they can shave power from that at peak times, which is more cost-effective than buying energy from the grid.
 - iii. HLPD can support charging stations in Stow as long as the power is provided by HLPD.
 - iv. Any policy changes regarding rebates, incentives, etc., will require HLPD board approval, but they are responsive to community needs.
 - v. HLPD will not allow third-party solar providers to sell electricity to anyone but HLPD in their service area.
 - vi. An issue is the lack of competitive incentives with Mass Save for building weatherization or heat pump retrofits.
- c. Arnie, Bob, and George will meet with the Hudson Green Energy Committee to coordinate their agenda with HLPD.

4. Report/discussion on Concord and Acton Climate Action Plans. Sharon, Carol.

a. Concord – Sharon

- i. Sharon met with Bouzha Cookman from Mothers Out Front regarding Concord's Climate Action Plan. She plans to meet with two more individuals.
- ii. Concord is working to set up real goals and targets to drive their plan:
 - 1. Warrant Article 51, passed in April 2017, sets goals of:
 - a. A 25% town-wide reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050, from the baseline established in the MA Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008.
 - b. A reduction of GHG emissions in the power supply portfolio of Concord Light and Power and to offset any residual GHG emissions of its electricity supply through the purchase of RECS or other offsets.
 - c. Funds for consultant(s) to aid the town in developing the plan to achieve said goals, and to hire a Sustainability Manager.
 - d. Emphasized a multi-section, system-thinking approach
 - 2. Climate Action Plan developed by an 11-person advisory committee. Municipal partners included representatives from the schools, Power Supply & Rates facilities, water and sewer environment and regulations, public works, electricity provider, police, fire, town administration, and sustainability manager.

3. Goals were focused on both mitigation and adaptation.
- iii. Concord now has a Carbon Free Concord group which works on different initiatives.
- iv. Concord's Climate Action Plan and the interview, as well as other supporting documentation, are in the committee's google drive.

b. Acton – Carol

- i. Carol attended one of Acton's community "Climate Action Envisioning" workshops.
 1. Five main categories were listed for Strategy Prioritization: Mobility, Energy, Buildings, Nature-based Solutions, Education and Outreach, and attendees voted on the strategies.
- ii. Acton has two climate groups: The Acton Climate Coalition (consists of residents, and 35 other coalition members, including businesses, civic and environmental organizations, and elected officials), which pushed to form Energize Acton (Part of Mass Energize, and is assisted by Mass Energize and partly funded by the Town of Concord, has some town staff support, and actions are informally approved by the town select board). Energize Acton members can keep "score" of their climate actions, and some town members have formed teams to compete on zero emissions goals.
- iii. Acton has a Sustainability Director, Andrea Becerra.
- iv. Acton's first major action was to establish a Climate Emergency Declaration that passed almost unanimously at the September 2020 town meeting. This action seemed to galvanize town members to participate in climate activities.
- v. Acton is currently working on a Climate Action Plan. Their 2021 goal is:
 1. 270 users setting up Energize Action accounts
 2. 350 households opting up to Acton Power Choice GREEN
 3. 170 EV (Electric Vehicle) purchases or leases
 4. 130 Solar installations
 5. 100 "deep insulation" projects
 6. 65 installations of heat pump technology for heating and cooling.
- vi. Carol has a phone meeting scheduled with Acton's Sustainability Director in late November.
- vii. Materials regarding Acton's climate actions are in the Google drive.

5. Discuss Massachusetts CECP (Clean Energy and Climate Plan) high level targets/categories for 2030.

- a. Mass CECP has four general strategic "pillars," under which are multiple sectors, strategies, and targets.
- b. The four pillars are:
 - i. End User energy
 - ii. Energy Efficiency and Flexibility (there are 3 strategies towards net 0 buildings that can be applied to Stow).
 - iii. Decarbonizing the Energy Supply (6 strategies can be applied to Stow)
 - iv. Carbon Sequestration

- c. Mass CECP sectors (under the pillars) can be applied as a good format for our climate plan.
- 6. Discuss priorities for group focus and what areas individual committee members want to focus on.**
 - a. Key areas identified to include in the Climate Action Plan (will evolve over time):
 - i. Building related: E.g., heat pumps, insulation
 - ii. Transportation: EVs, Charging stations, school bus, police vehicles
 - iii. Solar and storage
 - iv. Funding
 - v. Regulations
 - vi. Land use/Natural resources
 - vii. Town Plans: what other towns are doing, e.g., Climate Action Plans, Marlborough's solar school system
 - viii. Community education and involvement
 - b. Committee members discussed areas that they would be interested in exploring and working on.
 - i. Arnie: Focus on housing and buildings (building infrastructure), which comprise about ½ of the town's emissions, and funding.
 - ii. John Collona-Romano: Work with the planning board regarding building infrastructure, zoning, housing, EVs, serving as the committee's technical person.
 - iii. George Peterman: Utilities and working with the police department, funding.
 - iv. Sharon Brownfield: Deep dive into Concord's process, work on the committee's process, goals, plan, and community outreach/involvement, and EVs/Town charging stations.
 - v. Bob Collings: Funding
 - vi. John Sangermano: Natural Resources.
 - vii. Tom Porcher: Land use, water resources, technology, energy storage.
 - viii. Michael Naill: Deep dive on EVs and help with the police station EV and charging.
 - ix. Carol Lynn: Deep dive into Acton's process, overall CAP plan, work on community outreach/involvement, help with EVs/town charging stations.

7. New Business – None.

8. Meeting Agenda for December 2, 2021

- a. Review of minutes from 11-18-2021.
- b. Resident's Items
- c. Update re: Concord and Acton Climate Action Plans. Sharon, Carol.
- d. Scope of the Stow Climate Action Plan. Does it include adaptation/resiliency?

- e. Update on new housing developments.
- f. Update on MAPC support for Stow's Climate Action Plan.
- g. New Business:
 - i. Proposed HVAC system for the library addition.
 - ii. Meeting structure, topic prioritization, overall goals, and timelines.

9. Adjourned at 9pm